

June 2017

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THE NEWHALL PRESS



The NEWHALL PRESS seeks to bring the gift of community and connection to the members and friends of the FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWHALL through an attractively constructed, magazine-style monthly NEWSLETTER.

Pastor Column June 2017

June is a month of change. Young people think about graduating from their current grade to the next grade. Teachers are thankful to have survived the school year. Young couples plan June weddings. Life changes in June. Sarah Bolin, our Christian Education Director, recently sent a letter to church members letting us know about her fabulous new job and expressing her grateful joy towards this church where she has served for nine years. (She will tell you it will be 10 years on September 1). Change evokes in us a variety of emotions: anticipation for what is ahead, an anxiety about the same, an eagerness toward what is ahead. I am sad at the prospect of our youth and children losing someone in their lives who has served as a model of Christian joy in life, and yet I am delighted for the mission field that God has called Sarah to Praying Pelicans. She will now lead many Christian groups into the important reality and joy of serving their fellow human beings in places not so affluent and easy as ours. I realize that many of you also are simultaneously feeling those conflicting emotions. Yet as followers of Christ, we are called to celebrate our joy for Sarah even while conflicted by the feelings of losing her here among our lives. I would encourage you for the next four months to share your heart with her.

I remember a humorous, yet telling story about a farmer: *In Vermont, a farmer was sitting on the porch with his wife. He was beginning to realize how much she meant to him. It was about time – for they had lived together forty-two years, and she had been such a help, a very willing worker. That day as they sat together, he said, “Wife, you’ve been such a wonderful woman that there are times I can hardly keep from telling you.”*

I’m also cautioning all of us not to become so lost in our sadness and grief that we become bitter. Again I have a story as an illustration: *In some parts of Mexico, hot springs and cold springs are found side by side -- and because of the convenience of this natural phenomenon the women often bring their laundry and boil their clothes in the hot springs and then rinse them in the cold ones. A tourist, who was watching this procedure, commented to his Mexican friend and guide: “I imagine that they think old Mother Nature is pretty generous to supply such ample, clean hot and cold water here side by side for their free use?” The guide replied, “No señor, there is much grumbling because she supplies no soap.”*

After all, the Bible reminds us to give thanks for everything and look on life as a constant roller coaster. *Colossians 3:17 (NRSV) And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

That means everything that happens to us should draw us closer to God and his kingdom work in our lives and in the world. I will close with a few things to be thankful for that we might often overlook: . . . that only you and God have all the facts about yourself . . . that if you can't pay your bills, at least you're not one of your creditors . . . that if your job is a little harder than you like, you can't sharpen a razor on velvet. Also be thankful for doors of opportunity and for friends who oil the hinges.

In His Grip,

Pastor Bill

June Events:

PENTECOST SUNDAY	June 4	
NEW MEMBERS' CLASS	June 4 & 18	12:30 P.M.
MUSIC APPRECIATION SUNDAY	June 11	10:00 A.M. One Serv.
CHURCH BIRTHDAY PARTY & DEACON ICE CREAM SOCIAL	June 11	11:30 A.M.
LITTLE SHEPHERD'S GRADUATION	June 15	11:00 A.M.
FATHERS' DAY	June 18	
JUNIOR HIGH SUMMER CAMP	June 18–24	
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	June 19 to 23	
COUNTRY MUSIC IN NEWHALL	June 23	8:00 P.M.
SHRECK THE MUSICAL	June 24	7:00 P.M.
NEW MEMBERS' INSTALLATION	June 25	
SUMMER MAGIC AT BARNES' HOUSE	June 25	4:00 P.M.
Recurring Church Events:		
BOOK BUDDIES	2nd Thursdays	4:00 P.M.
CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL	Thursdays	7:30 P.M.
COMMUNION	1st Sundays	9:30/11:15 A.M.
EVERTHIRST (Band) REHEARSAL	Thursdays	6:30 P.M.
HANDCRAFTERS	2nd & 4th Tues.	10:00 A.M.
LADIES' NIGHT OUT	Last Tuesdays	6:30 P.M.
MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY	Thursdays	7:30 A.M.
MEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY	Mondays	5:30 P.M.
MIDDAY BIBLE STUDY	Fridays	11:00 A.M.
MINUTE FOR MISSIONS	4th Sundays	In Services
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	3rd Sundays	
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLES	See Schedule Page 10	
RECYCLING	1st Sundays of Calendar Quarter	
RING TONES REHEARSAL	Sundays	2:00 P.M.
STANDING TOGETHER	2nd Wednesdays	7:00 P.M.
TGIF (Children's Program)	Fridays	6:00 P.M.
YOUTH GROUP	Sundays	6:00 P.M.

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Leadership Meetings:

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE	
1st Wednesdays	7:00 P.M.
BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE	
1st Mondays	7:00 P.M.
CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE	
1st Mondays	7:00 P.M.
CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE	
1st Wednesdays	7:00 P.M.
DEACONS	
1st Mondays	7:00 P.M.
FUTURES COMMITTEE	
2nd Tuesdays	
MISSIONS COMMITTEE	
1st Tuesdays	7:00 P.M.
OUTREACH COMMITTEE	
2nd Wednesdays	7:00 P.M.
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE	
1st Fridays	8:00 A.M.
SESSION	
3rd Tuesdays	7:00 P.M.
STEPHEN MINISTRY	
4th Wednesdays	6:30 P.M.
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE	
2nd Tuesdays	10:00 A.M.
WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE	
1st Tuesdays	7:00 P.M.
YOUTH COMMITTEE	
2nd Wednesdays	7:00 P.M.

Future Events:

BAND CONCERT—TOWSLEY CANYON	
Jul. 22	7:00 P.M.
SUMMER MAGIC AT BARNES'	
Jul. 30	4:00 P.M.
JET HAWKS VS LAKE ELSINORE	
Aug. 11	6:35 P.M.
SUMMER MAGIC AT BARNES'	
Aug. 27	4:00 P.M.
HOLLYWOOD BOWL— JOHN WILLIAMS	
Sep. 3	5:30 P.M.
LITTLE SHEPHERDS' 50TH ANNIV.	
Sep. 10	10:00 A.M. One Serv.
USHER APPRECIATION SUNDAY	
Sep. 17	
MINISTRY FAIR	
Sep. 17	
SANTA CLARITA RIVER RALLY	
Sep. 23	8:00 A.M.
FALL AMOR TRIP	
Oct. 6 to 9	
FALL YARD SALE	
Oct. 13—14	
REFORMATION SUNDAY	
Oct. 29	



The Church Life Committee promotes fellowship and fun activities for the church family by providing a variety of church, community, cultural and special events throughout the year.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS - OVER-80S

Glenda Johnson	June 6
Betty Morris	June 9
Marilyn Graves	June 14
Marilyn Tanner	June 20



HANDCRAFTERS



Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month (June 13 & 27), at 10 a.m., people gather in the Evans Room to share their crafting skills, their interests, and their accomplishments. We are the *Handcrafters*, and everyone is welcome!

BOOK BUDDIES

Vanessa Diffenbaugh has written "We Never Asked For Wings."

Letty's mother has raised her children but when her mother and father return to Mexico, Letty has to become a full time Mother to her children.

Book Buddies will meet at Ellie Fuller's home: 25035 Greenmill Ave. Newhall.

For discussion and salad supper, RSVP to Ellie 661-259-4983



LADIES' NIGHT OUT

We will gather on June 27th at 6:30 pm at Kisho Teppan Grill

26430 Valencia Blvd. Valencia CA 91355

PICTURE THIS!!!



Rawleigh and Ginger Balkcom enjoyed Dodger Day on May 20th

Judy Carter welcomed her first grandchild, Luke Arvin Dibley, born May 21st at 6:09 pm. He weighed 6 lb., 14 oz. and was 19 1/4 inches long. Parents, Andrea and Ryan and baby Luke are all doing great!



The Petersen Automotive Museum

Eleven of us met at church on Saturday, March 6, and carpoled into Los Angeles to visit the Petersen Automotive Museum. The Petersen was founded in 1994 by Robert Petersen, whose publishing empire started with "Hot Rod" magazine in 1948. Having been recently renovated, the exterior of the museum is covered in stainless steel ribbons suggesting dynamic motion. The museum consists of three floors, each with a different theme: history, industry, artistry.

The group viewed a wide variety of automotive examples such as concept cars; a Hollywood gallery of cars of film and industry, including the Batmobile and Herbie the Love Bug; hot rods; one-of-a-kind vehicles; high performance cars, and motorcycles. Below the ground floor is "The Vault" which houses additional pieces of the great collection which are rotated into the main galleries periodically.

Each piece of the museum had a fascinating story behind it, making it an interesting and fun day.

Sandy Gravitt—Church Life Committee



The Worship and Music Committee will strive with God's guidance and grace, to create Christ-centered worship experiences, inspiring God's people as they respond to the Word proclaimed in prayer, glorious music, scripture, sacrament and message.

THE CHURCH BAND WILL APPEAR AT AN OUTDOOR CONCERT ON JULY 22, 2017!

First Pres Newhall's Christian Band EverThirst will be making its second appearance at the LA SummerFest Praise Night Christian concert this summer in Towsley Canyon Park. Last year was a big success; the band played a 60-minute set of great Christian and contemporary songs before an enthusiastic crowd of music lovers from all over the Santa Clarita Valley. The Family show featured three bands from churches in our valley. Under the lights and under the stars, it was a night to remember.

This year, the concert will be on Saturday night, July 22, 2017, starting at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free. Towsley Canyon Park is located at 24255 The Old Road, Newhall, CA, 91321. The park is near Interstate 5 at the Calgrove exit, on the west side of the freeway.

Bring a lawn chair. Many folks from First Pres attended last year (photos below) and had a great time. So did the Band! Hope to see you there!





The Adult Education Committee at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall encourages the congregation to mature in their Bible knowledge and practice of their Christian faith as disciples of Jesus Christ both personally and in community with other believers.

WHAT ROLE DOES THE "CHRISTIAN CHURCH" PLAY IN GOD'S RESCUE PLAN?

-by Art Moore, Jack Irwin and Roland Wrinkle

LIVING IN THE "IN-BETWEEN TIME"

Do you live in an "In-Between Time"? Between starting college and graduating from college? Between having children and seeing them leave to live their own lives? Between birth and death? The Church of Jesus, whether in the 1st Century or in the 21st century, lives in an "in-between time." What is this time between? The Church lives between Jesus' Ministry on Earth (including his ministry, teaching, death, resurrection and ascension - Jesus' First Advent) and Jesus' Return (also called the Second Coming or Second Advent).

THE PROBLEM OF THE "IN-BETWEEN TIME" FOR THE CHRISTIANS

So, what are we to do as Christians in this "In-Between Time"? This period leaves many befuddled. Christians in the first century AD thought that Jesus was returning right away and were sorely disappointed. (Paul's letter First Thessalonians 4:1-18 addressed those who worried that people who had died would not be alive and hence not saved when Jesus returned. Not to worry, said Paul, Jesus will raise them up to be with Him.) Some Christians throughout history, and even today, have resorted to predicting the date of the return of our Lord Jesus. Others believe that Christian faith simply means that when I die, I will go to be with Jesus. However, disappointment, predictions and "waiting-to-die" all ignore the question of what God wants us to do while we live in this "In-Between Time." What does our living in this world have to do with the salvation plan of God to restore fallen Humanity and the corrupted Creation? Let's look at what the Bible reveals.

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION INCLUDES THIS "IN-BETWEEN TIME"

The Bible is the great story of God's plan and acts to bring about the salvation of Humanity and redemption to the corrupted Creation. In the Bible we learn of the following "Eras" or periods of God's acts in human history.

The Creation ~ the story of Creation in the Bible teaches us that the loving God created all that is, including you and me. All God created was GOOD! This is not a scientific document; it conveys religious, spiritual truth that goes way beyond science to the meaning of Creation. There was harmony and love in the Garden of Creation.

The Fall ~ The Biblical story of Adam and Eve, and their sons Cain and Abel, shows how the harmony between the Creator and humankind, the epitome of God's Creation, was destroyed. Humankind fell into sin by choosing to ignore God and to be its own self-god, resulting in evil, injustice, disharmony, war in all forms, corruption/pollution/misuse of Creation, and ultimately Death. However, God chose not to leave Humanity and Creation in this state.

The Rescue of Fallen Humankind and Creation ~ God planned to send a Rescuer, His own Son, to enter Humanity and confront and defeat the evil and corruption. God promised Eve that her "seed," meaning Jesus, would come and defeat Satan, the personification of Evil, and rescue Humanity. God then called a people named Israel through Abraham and Moses, to prepare the way for His Son. The climax of the Rescue Plan was when the Son was born into Humanity. He was named Jesus, derived from the Hebrew name Joshua which means "God Saves." He was the True Human, living a sinless life perfectly reflecting the love of God. However, the evil, sinful world tortured, crucified, and killed Jesus. But that did not end God's Rescue Plan, since God rescued Jesus from Death in His bodily resurrection. God's renewal of Humanity and Creation started in Jesus. He was the "Suffering Servant" of God who obtained forgiveness of sin for us through His Sacrifice. (See Isaiah 53) He obtained victory over evil and Death through His death, resurrection and ascension, which declared Him King of kings and Lord of lords. (Peter preached in Acts 2:36 that God made Jesus both Lord and Messiah (Christ), the King.)

The "In-Between Time" of the Christian Church ~ We Christians live in this "In-Between Time" after Jesus' first Advent and as we await with hope His Second Advent. Some would say our role in this time is to attend church, but the Bible doesn't say that. It says we *are* the Church, which is the "body" of Christ in the world today. Now some excitement is lurking in this because God is calling us to play a vital role in implementing God's plan to rescue the world. Isn't that exciting? What is the part we are called to play? See our role described below as the "Mission of the Church."

The Final Consummation of the Rescue, of the Salvation of Humanity and Creation - Although God's rescue plan was inaugurated by Jesus and we as the Church of Jesus continue His Ministry and Mission, we still look forward to the future consummation of God's salvation of Humanity and Creation. The Old Testament Prophets and the New Testament Apostles wrote about a future time when Creation will be completely restored and when evil, suffering and Death will be no more. They described this future as a time when finally God will be "all in all" (I Corinthians 15:24-28), and when the glory of the Lord, and not the darkness of evil, will cover the earth as the waters cover the seas. The Bible speaks of this final act as the coming of the "new Heavens and the new Earth" when Jesus finally returns as the Messiah, as the King of kings

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and Lord of lords. (Read all about this in Isaiah 11 and 65-66 and in Revelation 20-21, the last book in the Bible). But let's get back to the Church, to we who believe and who live in the "In-Between Time."

THE MISSION AND ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN GOD'S RESCUE PLAN

Jesus had a mission for the Church to play in the "In-Between Time." Jesus commissioned His disciples to build, prosper and propagate the Church as His *direct agent* to represent God's new and restored Creation, inaugurated in the Resurrection of Jesus, here on earth, with the aid of the promised Holy Spirit. Jesus said to His disciples, and to we who are also His disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age (Matt. 28)." Jesus said to them and to us, "You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you (Luke 24)." Jesus said to them and to us, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation (Mark 16)." Jesus said to them, and to us, "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you (John 20)."

In the Church's liturgical year we are now "in-between" between Easter and Pentecost. Easter - the Resurrection of Jesus. Pentecost - the birth of Jesus' Church as told in Luke's *Book of Acts*. "Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common;and day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved (Acts 2:40-47)." Later Peter preached, "*He [Jesus] commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he [Jesus] is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead (Acts 10:42).*" While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the words he preached. The Jewish believers in Jesus were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles [non-Jews], but this was fulfilling God's Rescue Plan to all peoples of the world. (Acts 10)

Jesus' plan is for the Church to carry on His ministry and mission to the whole world. He did not want his followers to just sit around and wait for His Second Coming. He has amazing trust in us! He bequeathed to the Church the obligation to continue God's mission of giving life to the world—to bring light into a dark cosmos. Isn't that exciting? Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus empowered the Church for service and as the agency to advance the New Creation into all the world. We sometimes underemphasize this great vocation that Jesus has given us. Sometimes we think that "Church" means just going to worship services, but obviously, participating in the New Creation by calling all peoples, both Jew and Gentile, to participate in the New Creation of the Kingdom of God, is greater than just attending worship services.

THE CHURCH AND ITS MISSION IS COMMUNAL, NOT INDIVIDUAL.

One problem in American religion is that some who call themselves Christians don't believe they need to participate in the Church. They believe that all that is necessary is to personally, individually accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. "Why should I do anything else, since I know I am going to Heaven when I die?" they might say. Surely, that belief in Jesus is necessary, but it misses what God wants us to do in this life before we die. The excitement for the Church is that Jesus called all his followers to carry on His Ministry and Mission under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' Mission is a huge calling for all of us. We know it is nigh impossible to do anything without the help of others. So, it takes the CHURCH to carry out Jesus' Mission. Jesus commanded Christians to work together to carry out His Ministry and Mission in the In-Between Time. He sent his disciples out two by two, not one by one. He said he was present where two or three are gathered in His name. When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He did not unbind Lazarus himself. *He asked others to do it.* (John 11:44) We are those others. The Church is not a crowd of individual Christians, but a community working together to expand the Kingdom of God.

The Mission and Ministry of Jesus depends on all the followers of Jesus. The world-wide Church of Jesus is made up of many individual congregations of Christians all over the globe where His followers work together to advance the Kingdom of God in this world. We are not individuals doing his or her "own thing," but we are groups of Christians banded together to serve Jesus - some who serve coffee, some who usher, some who preach, some who pray, some who feed the hungry, some who visit the imprisoned, some who clothe the naked and feed the poor, some who share in word and deed the news of God's rescue plan, some who write, some who sing, some who run computers, some who print bulletins, some who help lead VBS, some who teach in Sunday School, some who go to Laos, some who serve as missionaries, some who beautify the campus, some who raise and watch the necessary money, some who serve in all sorts of ways, some who dream, some who have visions, some who prophesy, some who speak in tongues, some who are peacemakers, some with the gift of healing, some who bind up the wounded and comfort the broken hearted, some who protest injustice, abuse and evil. These "some" are groups of Christians, not individuals alone.

We are citizens together of the Kingdom of God, working together, each with a part to play. What has God called you to do in the Mission of Jesus while you are living in your "In-Between Time?" Sometimes we may focus only on the task given us but feel, "I am not significant." Change your focus and realize that your task is part of the global mission of Jesus in the world. If you are not connected, there are many opportunities at First Pres Newhall to join a small group, a women's circle, a committee, a musical group, a band of men, a mission project or another band of Christians in our church and get connected in Jesus' Mission.

The Mission of Jesus is one of grace, and love and service. This Mission is biblically-mandated. It is our purpose in the "In-Between-Time" as the Church of Christ. Our Mission is cross-shaped - the vertical points us upward to God and the horizontal points us to service and mission to all those God wants us to reach with the words and deeds of the Gospel, the Good News that God is rescuing Humanity and Creation. Let us celebrate our calling when on June 4 we celebrate the birthday of the Church on Pentecost and on June 11 when we celebrate the 126th birthday of First Pres Newhall.

MORE NEWS FROM ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

LONGING FOR A CHURCH LIBRARY

Did you know that Adult Ed has a small LENDING LIBRARY (thanks to Jack Irwin, Roland Wrinkle, Art Moore and Pastor Bill) at Lorraine King's Sign In/Name Tag Table each Sunday. There is a checkout form provided. We encourage you to use this wonderful service often.

We have a new member on our Adult Ed Committee who is in charge of this Library Her name is Jennifer Maloney. She has a Library background and a passion for reading. Who knows how large our Library could become! So please take a look!

Submitted by Lynn Parkinson, Adult Ed Elder



Jennifer Maloney

INFORMATIVE SEMINAR ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING



On Sunday May 21 in the Sanctuary, Adult Ed presented an informative and compelling presentation on Child Human Trafficking to a large group of attendees. We learned that Southern California is high on the list of children in danger of human trafficking.

Vickie McCoy, a representative from ZOE Inc., explained the problems and the process of how

children get caught in this life-changing nightmare. There are things each of us can do to help with this serious matter.

Submitted by Lynn Parkinson, Adult Ed Elder



The Outreach Committee is called by our Heavenly Father to extend the hospitality that we find in our fellowship to the community, to visitors, and to new members, in order to draw them into the family of Christian faith at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall.

Announcing the next New Members Class coming this Month

Everyone already “belongs” at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall - but maybe you are ready to make it “official.”

The dates are set and the Outreach Committee is getting ready for the spring New Members Class. There are two classes - Sunday June 4 & June 18, both after second service in Bill's office. The classes are informal and led by Pastor Bill. There is absolutely no obligation to become a member; if you choose to, you will be received into this family of faith before the congregation on Sunday June 25.

Sign up at the Fellowship table with Lorraine King on Sunday mornings, call or email Bob at the church office: 661-259-0555, churchoffice@presby-newhall.org, or contact John Favalessa Elder of Outreach: favalessa@yahoo.com.

One of the distinctive characteristics of Christian faith is that it is shared—in community, in the company of others. Paul described the church as “the Body of Christ”. No one person is the whole body, each is a part. We need each other's gifts to complement our own. Membership means we are all necessary parts of the whole. Membership also pro-





One's vision is not a road map but a compass. – Peter Block, American author

Your vision will become clear only when you look into your heart. Who looks outside, dreams. Who looks inside, awakens. – Carl Jung, Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst

A person with a dream and a vision is more powerful than a person with facts and a budget. – Anonymous

Where there is no vision, the people perish. – Proverbs 29:18

If you have the Church's 2016 Annual Report and read it (or skimmed through it) to the end, you would have seen something new back in the pages with all the financial stuff. On the top of page 27 it says "Vision Statement of the Treasurer at FPCN." You may ask yourself, "Doesn't she mean Mission Statement?" The answer would be "no." I mean a vision statement. A vision statement is an aspirational (a desire to achieve) description of what an organization would like to achieve in the near or long-term future. It serves as a clear guide for choosing courses of action. A mission statement is a written description of an organization's core purpose and focus that normally remains unchanged over time. A mission statement is something to be accomplished whereas a vision statement is something to be pursued for that accomplishment. A mission statement answers the question, "Why do we exist?" The vision statement answers the question, "How will we achieve this mission statement?"

Now I have a mission statement – "Strive to be a one-stop, peace of mind center for all things financial. This will be accomplished by providing accuracy in the financial statements, by having integrity and always doing the right thing, by having mastery in knowledge and in the financial field, and by being of service to the staff, officers, and congregation of this church." But now as I'm writing this, I may just shorten it to "Your one-stop, peace of mind center for all things financial." This is why my office exists, as I see it anyway. I could even print it on a t-shirt or baseball cap.

My vision of this office is lengthier because I explain how I am going to achieve this mission. It contains four values – Accuracy, Integrity, Mastery, and Service – two of which I will explain here.

Accuracy: The state of being correct or precise; freedom from error. The financial well-being is probably the most important aspect of any organization. Without money, the dreams, missions, and yes even the overhead of this church could not be accomplished. If I do not produce the financial statements in a timely manner and they do not include all the proper information, how much confidence would you have in what you are reading? That is why I pledge to make the financial statements free of mistakes and that the information will be well-researched and that nothing will be glossed over.

Integrity: The quality of being honest and having a strong moral principal. I was raised to believe that a person's word was their honor, a handshake was as good as a contract, and honesty is the best policy. That is why honesty is my top priority, I will always do the right thing, and I will operate within the letter – and the spirit – of the law.

Now vision statements are not just for organizations. They are used by departments, teams, committees, families, and individuals. So I challenge you to make your own vision statement. Where do you see yourself in 5 or 10 years? Maybe you could make a mission statement too. Why do you exist? Why did God put you here on the earth? Okay, maybe that's too much, but you get the idea. Find your vision! Find your mission!

Well that is it for now. I hope you have enjoyed reading a portion of my vision. I will continue this in my next column and hopefully finish it up. I love my job and I want to honor the trust that all of you have placed in me.



The purpose of The Mission Committee, in order to further share the gospel of Jesus Christ, is to responsibly use the resources of First Presbyterian Church of Newhall, wherever we find a neighbor in need. We are committed to meeting mission needs in our

MEMORIES OF THE SPRING AMOR TRIP

by John Favalessa and James Allison

We want to thank this congregation for supporting our twice-a-year **AMOR** homebuilding trips which are only possible because of all of you!



In the brisk morning of April 28th, a **youthful in heart and aged in experience** group of nine were ready for our mission trip in partnership with AMOR Ministries. We were packed up by 9:00 am with all of our tools and camping equipment stowed in the church van and in an additional single cab truck. We said our goodbyes in the church parking lot, shook off the last nerves, and began our journey joined in a circle of prayer.



After two grueling full days of work, we had built an 11'X22' home for a family in need in Tijuana, Mexico. It amazes me how much work we get done in such a short amount of time and with the small group we have. We even put the first coat of stucco on! That's



something we haven't been able to do in recent trips! There were no injuries and we never felt safer.

Such wonderful memories are always created along the way, and this trip was no exception. The drive took a while; we stopped at Tom's Farm for a barbeque lunch and fish tacos. Things have changed at the border going into Mexico. Security and screening is much tighter. We later found out that they are looking for guns coming in from the USA. The Mexican government is seriously trying to fight the drug cartels that are fueled by our country's insatiable appetite for drugs. On this trip we passed through screening fairly quickly. We didn't have to have the trailer x-rayed! Fernando, the AMOR representative, had been working with and building relationships with the Mexican officials at the border for the month prior. Over two thousand high school and college kids had crossed with AMOR during the spring break weeks.



We got to the camp rather early, set up our tents and ate dinner which was provided by "La Cantina" a food service run by the local women. They also served dinner on Saturday night. It was such a relief not having to cook after the hard day's work.

Our two workdays were blessed by having good and not-too-hot weather, a flat open job site, and having Michael (our AMOR field rep) and his wife work with us. Michael's 14-month-old son also came to the jobsite and had a blast playing with hammer and nails! On Sunday the family whose home we were building also worked with us and in the afternoon they treated us to a home-cooked meal of chicken mole and Spanish rice. It was cooked on an outdoor open fire and was incredibly delicious. That night back at the camp we invited Michael and his family,

Fernando and his family and the camp guards to our homemade lasagna dinner. It was a truly wonderful evening giving us a glimpse of the coming Kingdom of God.

This trip was a jam-packed uplifting adventure. Oh, time for one more story. On Saturday, late in the afternoon, as we were packing up our tools, a group of local children, all dressed in clean white shirts, came to the job site serenading us with songs praising Jesus. Even though most of us did not understand the words, their loud and beautiful voices filled us with their unconditional love.

Our next trip will be in the fall on October 6th through the 9th. Come build hope with us and be forever changed in the process.

KIDS, KIDS, KIDS

The Children's Ministry Committee at First Presbyterian Church will invite children to EMBRACE the Word of God through worship, games, songs, and other activities; ENCOURAGE their spiritual growth to become closer to our Lord, Jesus Christ; and EQUIP them to go out into the world and share God's love.

VBS IS COMING! VBS IS COMING! MAKER FUN FACTORY VBS!

You are invited to something NEW and EXCITING for VBS and YOU! Make plans to join us for a fantastic **Maker Fun Factory** VBS June 19 to 23 from 9:00 am -12:30 pm daily – for potty-trained preschoolers through 6th graders. It's going to be great fun, with lessons from the Bible, skits, crafts, games, snacks, videos, songs, and FUN, FUN, FUN! We want YOU to be there!

VBS registration for preschool through 6th-graders is \$30/child for the week, or two children for \$50. If you invite a friend who doesn't attend church at First Pres, you get a 50% discount on your tuition when your friend pays his/her tuition. Registration includes a fun daily skit, Bible lessons, games, a t-shirt, snacks, crafts and one VBS CD per family.



VOLUNTEERS, we want YOU too! Please sign up at the VBS table and pay \$5 for your volunteer t-shirt. You are welcome to choose your top three choices for placement during the week. We need teens and adults in ALL areas!

We know that without the love and support of our congregation, we couldn't make this annual week of worship happen. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you, Lelia and Sarah



The Futures Sub-Committee of Session

HEY, ALL YOU IDEA PEOPLE!!! ...

The Futures Committee would like to hear from you...

At First Presbyterian Church at Newhall:

What are we doing WELL, do you think?

What are we *not* doing so well, do you think?

Send us an email ...futures@presby-newhall.org

We are going to begin writing and thinking our way through a *Strategic Plan* for our church and would deeply appreciate your input.

Do you love our new Look from Newhall Avenue?

Are you looking forward to another Summer Series of sermons where you hear from other members of our congregation?

Are you confused when you talk with friends/relatives who think differently than you do about your Christian faith?

Send us snippets of questions or concerns or quandaries in which you find yourself.

Barbara Irwin, Dorothy Ng, Carol Ramnarine, Bryce Morrow, Tim Pulliam, Rebecca Cranert

Presbyterian Women, as forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, commit ourselves: To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the Church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.



PW TEA PHOTOS



← Lynn Viggianelli & Susie Creighton



SERVERS: Tim Pulliam, Bill Barnes, Kerby Sechovec, Kevin Johnson, Richard King, Jim Creighton, Jack Irwin, Rod Belcher

PW MISSION PROJECT



For "Help the Children" during the month of June, PW will continue focusing on mac 'n cheese and boxes of instant rice packages such as rice-a-roni and hamburger helper. Please put your items on the shelves in the Evans Room. Your support of the PW Mission is greatly appreciated! Thank you!!

PW CIRCLES—ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!

- Elizabeth: Stephanie Linn (259-3914 - First & Third Tuesdays of the month at 11:30 a.m. in the Evans Room. Babysitting is available.
- Lois: Sharon Dziubala (297-6200) - Meets second Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Evans Room.
- Lydia: Judy Reinsma (296-6869) - Meets first Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Evans Room.
- Mary Martha: Nancy Spigelman (254-0319) & Sam Spigelman (312-7111)- Meets second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in various homes.
- Rachel: Tiffany Aune (478-2056) - Meets second Tuesday of the month at 6:15 p.m. in various homes and shares a salad dinner.

Little Shepherd's Nursery School

at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall



In June we say goodbye to another school year and send our Pre-K children off to Kindergarten with a short but very sweet program on June 15 at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary. Every child in the preschool program sings at this event. Our songs will be "Oh What A Miracle", "The World Is A Rainbow" and "See You Later" This program will be followed by a celebration in the preschool playground afterwards. Please join us if you are able to help us celebrate this day!

Our caterpillars emerged as butterflies in mid-May so we let them go at school one day (some in the playground and some in the prayer garden). We also planned our curriculum around this occasion.

Summer School runs 3 weeks in July (11-13, 18-20, 25-27). Our summer program is an all-outdoor program which will include water activities...and traditionally includes popsicles to end our summer mornings! Miss Karsyn will be teaching the summer program with the assistance of staff members who are available in July.

Fall Enrollment for 2017-2018 is now open to the public and Miss Dawn has been scheduling tours to fill spaces for that. At this time we are a little over half full with some openings in all age groups. We will begin our 2017-2018 school year on August 22 and end in mid-June.

Our big news is that Little Shepherds is going to be celebrating 50 years of serving families in September! The nursery school opened its doors on September 11, 1967. A celebration is being planned for Sunday, September 10 starting with a blended church service at 10am honoring all past and present staff of the nursery school, followed by a celebration in the preschool yard. Mark your calendars for this date and more information will follow!!

I would like to take a minute to thank the staff of Little Shepherd's Nursery School for their dedication to teaching young children! We had a great school year and a summer of rest is well deserved.

Thank you to Miss Susan, Miss Chris, Miss Karsyn, Miss Heather and our Office Assistant Miss Dawn.



Miss Sharie's class enjoys the instruments donated to the school by Ken and Florence Craig



Miss Dorothy gets thank you hugs from the children after chapel time.



Miss Karsyn shows the children one of the butterflies before we

Children Are Like Kites by Erma Bombeck

"You spend a lifetime trying to get them off the ground. You run with them until you are both breathless. They crash. They hit the rooftop. You patch and comfort, adjust and teach. You watch them lifted by the wind and assure them that someday they will fly.

Finally, they are airborne; they need more string and you keep letting it out; but with each twist of the ball of twine there is a sadness that goes with joy. The kite becomes more distant and you know it won't be long before that beautiful creature will snap the lifeline that binds you two together and will soar, free and alone. Only then do you know that you did your job."

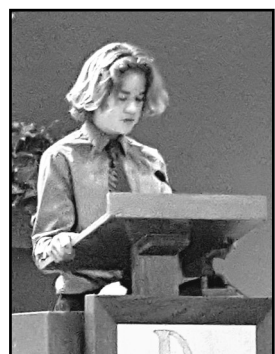
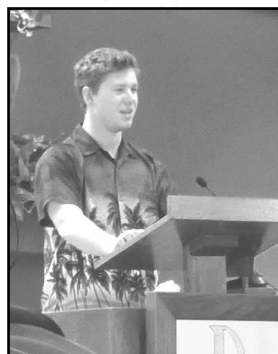
This poem is another one of the traditions of Little Shepherds and is shared at the end of each school year.



The Youth Committee nurtures the Junior High and Senior High-aged youth of First Presbyterian Church of Newhall, and the community; by providing a Christ-centered program of worship, education, fellowship, and service in order to equip them with a framework in which they can realize their spiritual gifts and live a Christian life.

YOUTH SUNDAY

Congratulations to our fabulous Youth Group who led our worship on May 7. Many of you awesome young people are obviously emerging as future Christian leaders! Thanks for sharing your talents in music and stories about your life-changing mission trip to Miami. We are blessed to have each of you in our family! Pictured from left to right are Zachary Buhle, Owen Allen, and Kristine Kokkinos (with Pastor Bill).



The Newhall Press

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JUNE 2017



Sunday Worship Services

Traditional Worship 9:30 a.m.
Contemporary Worship 11:15 a.m.



Deadline for the July-August Newsletter: June 18, 2017

Send articles and photos to our
email address:

newsletter@presby-newhall.org

Thanks to Bob Balkcom, office administrator, for oversight and printing; Ellie and Steve Fuller, for faithfully preparing newsletter for mailing; and Lorraine King for helping with proof reading. —Kathy Bressler, Editor

The Newhall Press

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Assoc. Youth Dir: Bryce Morrow
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2nd Service Worship Leader: Sam Besse
Treasurer: Dorothy Ng (ext. 3)
Custodian: Nelson Orellana
Groundskeeper: Steve Fuller
Nursery Care Provider: Linda Weingarten

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